MONTEREY NEWS

March 2002
VOLUME XXXII · Number 3

The Town

Special Town Meeting

A Special Town Meeting has been scheduled for 7 p.m. on Friday, March 8 at the Firehouse. The main warrant item is the transfer of funds from free cash to the Sand and Snow Account. Although we have not had many storms this winter, we have had 38 inches of snow. This meeting is scheduled as a precautionary measure. At the regular Town Meeting in May there was a clear mandate to have citizen input to the process of transferring monies from Free Cash. While the snow season is coming to a close, statistics show that we often get major storms in March and April—nearly a third of our snowfall occurred in those months last year. Passage of this article will allow the Town the discretion to transfer funds into the Snow and Sand Account if necessary without calling an emergency Town Meeting in the event of a large storm. Maynard Forbes, the new Director of Operations, and the Select Board are making every attempt at due process and taking all necessary precautions for the smooth running of snow removal efforts in the Town.

The other article on the warrant is the proposed adoption of a by-law prohibiting the use of bubblers in Town lakes. This came up after a family narrowly escaped peril early this year due to deceptively thin ice caused by a bubbler being used to prevent ice damage to a dock on Lake Buel.

Please attend this meeting and have your vote counted.

Salary Review Committee Established

A new six-member Salary Review Committee has been appointed for a two-year term. The Select Board has appointed Marion Simon, Alan Dean, Charles Ferris, Maureen Banner, Maureen Haugh, and Deborah B. Mielke as a salary review committee assigned the task of reviewing all salaries of Town employees, along with job descriptions. The committee will undertake a study of salary scales and benefit packages for towns of similar size and character to Monterey. The last time a salary review was completed was over five years ago. The committee will review, research, and make recommendations to the Select Board about these matters over the next year.

Conservation Commission Schedules Meeting on Scenic Mountain Act

The Monterey Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on Monday, March 11, at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Offices (not the Firehouse as indicated in the notice mailed out by the Conservation Commission) on possible adoption by the Town of by-law regulations under the Scenic Mountain Act. The Town Survey conducted in 1999 indicated that a large majority of towns-

Will Marsh

Claude "Tim" Burke, Monterey's oldest citizen, surrounded by five generations of his family at the celebration of his 100th birthday (story on p. 3)

people responding (78 percent) favored regulations to protect views and ridgelines. Some time after that voters requested that Monterey consider adopting the Massachusetts Scenic Mountain Act, passed by the state in 1974, and the Conservation Commission and Select Board have been discussing how to pursue this action. The Conservation Commission has been working on proposed local regulations under the Scenic Mountain Act that will be presented to voters at the annual Town Meeting in May for adoption as Monterey by-laws.

At the March 11 meeting, the Conservation Commission will present a draft of the proposed regulations and ask for response and input from citizens. A map will be displayed showing areas in the Town that would be regulated under the proposed regulations. The Conservation Commission stresses that the proposed regulations do not prohibit building; they are aimed at ensuring that both water quality and scenic quality of Monterey are managed responsibly for the benefit of all landowners. All citizens are encouraged to attend and make their voices heard on this important issue.

Deadline for Articles for May 4 Town Meeting.

All submissions, by petition or individuals, for warrant articles pertaining to the annual Town Meeting on May 4 are due in the hands of the Select Board by Monday, March 4, at 9 a.m.

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Monday ..... 7–9 p.m.
Tuesday ..... 9:30 a.m.–noon
Wednesday ..... 3–5 p.m.
Saturday ..... 9:30 a.m.–noon
..... 7–9 p.m.

Phone 528-3795

The *Monterey News* is published monthly under the auspices of Monterey United Church of Christ, Monterey, MA 01245.

Registration Required for Alarm Systems

The user of every alarm system maintained in the Town of Monterey, except those installed in motor vehicles, shall, within ten (10) days of the installation thereof, notify the Town Offices by calling 528-1443 to request an application and a copy of the applicable by-laws. Failure to do so will result in fines.

Correction

The wonderful fireworks photograph on the front page of the January 2002 issue was incorrectly credited. The photographer was actually Jean Germain. The editor apologizes for the mistake.

May 31 Retiree Celebration

The celebration honoring four leading citizens (Gige O'Connell, Don Amstead, Harry Gustafson, and Walter Parks) who retired last year after serving the town long and well will be held May 31 at the Seven Stones resort on Lake Buel. Tickets for this special event will soon be printed and available for sale. Save the Date!

— Amy Goldfarb

Another Thank-You to Monterey Fire Department

The Fire Department received the following letter in January from a grateful resident:

Dear Chief Tryon and entire Fire Department of Monterey,

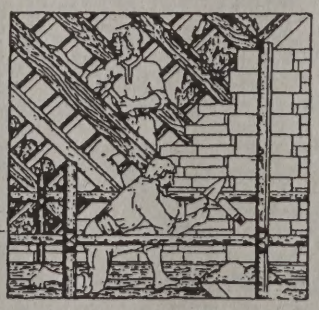
Last night was one of the worst moments I have experienced—to sit there watching my house burning was horrifying. But if it weren't for all you gentlemen, I would have no house to salvage. Not only did you arrive within minutes of my 911 call, but you were efficient, professional, and totally wonderful.

I am so fortunate to live in Monterey and to have dedicated people like you to take care of me. (My husband returns tonight from Michigan and he definitely appreciates your being there.)

The house will be repaired, my dog and I are unhurt, and my eternal gratitude remains. God bless the Monterey Fire Department!

Thank you, thank you.

— Lynne Leavitt,
Aaron Leavitt (in absentia),
and Sambucca, the black Lab.



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Tim Burke Celebrates 100th Birthday

On Sunday afternoon, February 10, a large group of townspeople gathered in the Monterey Firehouse to honor the town's oldest resident, Claude "Tim" Burke, and to help him celebrate his 100th birthday. Proudly sporting the "oldest Monterey citizen" cane he was given in the town's 1997 sesquicentennial celebration, Tim was surrounded by five generations of his family as he and the crowd enjoyed a giant birthday cake and other treats.

Tim was born on February 9, 1902, in what is now known as "Corner House," across the road from the Monterey Library. He spent his childhood with his mother and father, John and Mary Bell (Dowd) Burke, his sister, Dora, and his brother, Jesse, in a house (now torn down) located on Tyringham Road beyond the Hebert house toward Lake Garfield. He married Grace Kimberley in July 1934, and three days later they moved into the house on New Marlborough Road where they lived for the next sixty-seven years. After Grace died last October, Tim moved to Becket to live with his son Russell. It is the first time in his life that he has lived outside Monterey's boundaries.

Tim has served the town in various capacities over his long career. He was a member of the Democratic Town Committee beginning in 1940, was the Tree Warden from 1959 to 1971, and served on the Cemetery Commission from 1977 to 1981. He joined the Monterey Fire Department in its founding days in the 1930s. During the celebration at the Firehouse, he presented Fire Chief Ray Tryon with a plaque holding Tim's original "fire apparatus driver's license." Tim in turn was presented a plaque from The Izaak Walton League of America recognizing him for being both the oldest and the longest-standing member—forty-five years.

Five generations of Tim Burke's family: Tim and (counterclockwise) son Russell, grandson Michael, great-grandson Nicholas, and great-great-granddaughter Jerlynn Abigail

Tim was a member of the Great Barrington Sportsmen's Club for many years. He is also an avid card player and played in the Alford Pitch League until recently.

Tim is still reading the many cards he has received, including one from Senator John Kerry. He still gets out and about every day—and he is looking forward to next year's birthday.

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Input Requested for Summer Library Program

The Monterey Library Trustees are now planning activities for the summer reading program. We would appreciate your input. During the month of March we will have forms available at the Library asking you: 1) ages of children; 2) number of children; 3) preferred day of the week; 4) preferred time of day; and 5) type of activity. If you cannot come to the Library during March you can e-mail us at Monterey@cwmars.org or phone us during Library hours at 413-528-3795. Please help us to create a good program for your children.

For the adults, especially mystery and suspense lovers, we are planning to have Parnell Hall here for a reading. Date and time will be announced later. If you have any suggestions for an evening during the week that you would prefer this event to take place, please let us know. And if you haven't yet read any of Parnell Hall's books, start reading them. They're treats!

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Youth Baseball in Monterey

South Berkshire Youth Baseball, featuring the Cal Ripken Program, will start up again at Greene Park in mid-April. This is for children ages 5 to 12. Participants are placed in age and skill appropriate groups. Last year saw about 50 players take part. Emphasis is on fun and instruction.

We are grateful to the Monterey Park Commission for their steadfast support. Also, over the winter we have received $220 from the Sunday softball players. This money will be used to help make needed improvements to the field.

It costs about $60 per child to run this program. This covers things such as insurance, equipment, uniforms, etc. We ask parents to contribute what they can, but we never turn anyone away based on finances. We are not in favor of children selling raffle tickets, candy, etc. All of our adult helpers are volunteers. Those wishing to make a donation, please make checks payable to So. Berkshire Youth Baseball in care of our treasurer, Gary Shaw, P.O. Box 86, Monterey 01245. Player participation information may be obtained by calling me at 528-0006.

— Jim Edelman
So. Berkshire Youth Baseball
Coordinator, Monterey

Easter Egg Hunt

The Monterey Coffee Club is sponsoring an Easter egg hunt on the Library lawn from 2–4 p.m. on Easter Sunday, March 31. There will be a special area for younger children (up to 4 years old) and prizes for special eggs. Join the fun!

Missing Heirloom Photos

Some of the individuals who provided old photographs for the book *Monterey: A Local History* never received them back. If you know the whereabouts of these old photos, kindly see that they make their way to their proper owner(s). Many thanks!

Monterey Book at Bookloft

Bookseller Eric Wilska has purchased all 416 remaining copies of the book *Monterey: A Local History,* published in 1997 during the celebration of the town's 150th anniversary. Local history buffs accustomed to finding the book at the Monterey General Store or ordering it through the mail may now buy it for the same price ($25) at The Bookloft in Great Barrington, or you can get it online at thebookloft.com.

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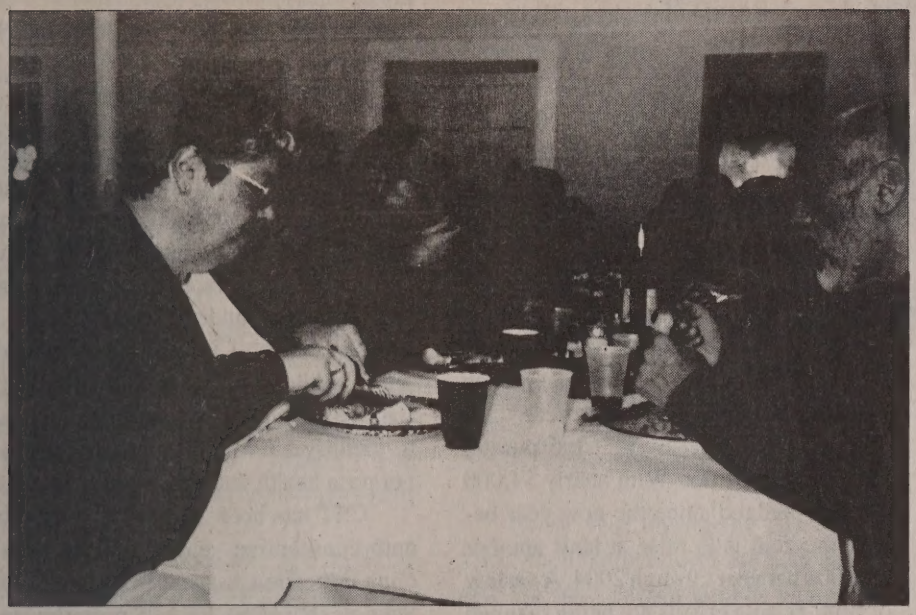

Glynis Oliver

Enjoying good company and great food at February 14 community dinner

Next Community Dinner Set for March 13

The February Community Dinner was another success in our now well-established tradition of good food and fine fellowship. Many first-time attenders came, especially members of the Monterey Fire Company. The "Monterey Morning Coffee Club" donated two spiral-cut hams, which were very tasty. If you don't know about this new club, stop by the Meetinghouse basement seven days a week from 8 to 10 a.m.

It was Valentine's Day, and the theme expressed our love and appreciation of the fire company for their remarkable service. The slide show of pictures taken by Ray Ward approximately twenty years ago chronicled the building of the firehouse by the fire company members themselves. These were followed by a special encore of slides from the great flood of August 1955, when two hurricanes within one week swamped the town.

Don't miss the next supper. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, March 13, 2002, at 6 p.m. in the Meetinghouse fellowship room. Eileen Lawlor will be hosting, and she has planned a "Poets and Writers Corner" for entertainment following supper. Judging by the many fine entries in this sterling publication over the years we should be in for a real treat! Writers please call Eileen in advance at 528-7916 for a time slot.

Please bring a covered dish, salad, or dessert, as well as your own plates and silverware. Beverages are provided. All are welcome and encouraged to meet new friends!

— Steve Pullen

Earth Day Trash Walk

It's time for the southern Berkshire EARTH DAY TRASH WALK!

Individuals, families, businesses, schools, and organizations can make a difference!

This is your opportunity to make Monterey sparkle like the jewel of the Berkshires, celebrate Earth Day, and have fun with your neighbors! FREE! We don't want your money. We want you to adopt a 1/4 mile stretch of road in Monterey, or a parcel of land (even in front of your own home or business). On (or before) April 27th, clean up your site! Leave your filled bags by the side of the road and the DPW will collect your trash on Monday, April 29th.

Also reserve Saturday, April 27th, from 12–4 p.m., for an Earth Day celebration, at the band shell in Great Barrington.

If you will adopt a site for the Trash Walk please sign up (individually or with a team) by sending your name, address, phone number and e-mail address, the site you wish to adopt, your business or organization (if applicable), and number of participants (please include ages of children) to Sue Protheroe, 20 Hebert's Cove Road, Great Barrington, MA. 01230, or call the Monterey Town Clerk at 528-5175.

Let's make Monterey spotless for Earth Day!

— Sue Protheroe

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I will meet with you at your home in Monterey.

Eagle Fund Takes on Matching Grant Challenge

The Eagle Fund of the Southern Berkshire School District has accepted a matching fund challenge from the Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust, headquartered in Boston. The conditions of the grant proposal call for the Eagle Fund to raise $40,000 in charitable donations within a three-year period, upon which the Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust will award an additional $20,000. As an additional form of incentive, the Cox Trust is giving the Eagle Fund $1,500 at the outset to assist in developing a three-year strategy.

Founded in 1997 by citizens of the five towns in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District, the Eagle Fund is building an endowment dedicated to enriching and expanding the range of educational experiences for the children of Alford, Egremont, Monterey, New Marlborough, and Sheffield. In its first four years of existence, the Eagle Fund grew to almost $250,000, as a result of generous donations in response to the annual mailings and phon-a-thons, and with the help of a particularly generous bequest from the estate of a Monterey resident.

The aim of the Eagle Fund is to continue building its endowment over the coming years, keeping the principle intact, and making the annual interest on the fund available to students, staff, and community members in the form of grants for projects that are of educational or cultural value to district participants. The first grants were awarded in the spring of 1999; since then a total of $25,000 has been given out in support of projects in computer technology, the sciences, drama, music, dance, photography, reading, and creative writing.

To get back to the Cox Charitable Trust challenge grant, "the clock began ticking on January 1 of this year," according to Eagle Fund Chairperson Catherine B. Miller. With nearly $4,000 already pledged since the new year began, the goal is to raise at least another $12,000 per year through 2004. A variety of fund-raising efforts are being planned for this three-year period, along with a general push on the part of the Eagle Fund to better acquaint the public with its important mission. Together with the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, which manages its account, the Eagle Fund will not only be seeking support through charitable contributions of donors, but will also be working to interest residents in bolstering the endowment through beneficent estate planning.

To obtain further information on the Eagle Fund, or to send contributions, one may write to The Eagle Fund, c/o The Berkshire Taconic Community Fund, 271 Main St., Great Barrington, MA 01230.

CET Offers Free Programs to Area Schools

The Center for Ecological Technology (CET) is currently offering free classroom presentations, teacher training, and services to public schools in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden Counties for the remainder of the 2002 school year. In addition, CET is available to work with middle and high schools to safely remove products that contain mercury and to identify alternatives products that do not pose health and environmental risks.

CET has been selected for the seventh consecutive year to deliver Recycling Education Assistance for the Public Schools (REAPS). REAPS provides free classroom presentations on recycling issues, assistance in setting up school recycling programs, and teacher training sessions. REAPS is funded by the Executive Office for Environmental Affairs and the Department of Environmental Protection.

CET's environmental education staff bring to classrooms, from kindergarten through twelfth grade, lessons that will

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involve students in environmental issues around waste, recycling, composting, toxic chemicals, and reuse. These topics come to life through interactive "hands-on" activities designed to engage students in thinking about how their individual actions can make a difference in protecting the environment. Presentations apply concepts identified in the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks.

REAPS also provides free assistance to help schools establish recycling or composting programs or to revitalize and strengthen existing recycling programs. Teacher training for PDP's in the areas of waste management and recycling is also available.

CET has also been awarded funds by the Department of Environmental Protection to work with schools to remove products that contain mercury. The vulnerability of school children and the challenges and high cost of cleanup in the event of a mercury spill makes removal an important goal. At no cost to schools, CET will work with school staff to safely identify products that contain mercury and develop safe storage, recycling or disposal plans. This grant also covers costs to replace mercury-bearing products with safer alternatives.

Removing mercury from the waste stream is a high priority in Massachusetts. Mercury is especially dangerous young children and fetal development. An estimated 60,000 children are born each year with learning disabilities attributable to mercury exposure in the womb, according to a study by the National Academy of Sciences. Increasingly, scientific evidence indicates that children remain vulnerable to impairment from mercury exposure as long as their bodies are still developing.

Interested teachers, school administrators or facility managers should contact Joy Kirschenbaum at 1-800-238-1221 or joyk@cetonline.org. CET is working with the South Central Recycling Association of Massachusetts and the Northeast Waste Management Officials Association to provide these services. CET is a nonprofit energy and resource conservation and waste management organization. It is funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Caution: Salamanders Crossing, Need Your Help

Every year during the first spring rain, when temperatures are between 38 and 42 degrees, thousands of spotted salamanders, Jeffersonian salamanders, wood frogs, and other amphibians travel from woodlands. They have spent the winter underground, and the warmer times burrowing under rocks and logs and moss, and foraging for earthworms, snails, and other insects. They are heading for woodland pools, where they were born, to lay and fertilize their eggs. On this journey, they cross roads, and are run over by the hundreds. They look like leaves or sticks on the road in the glare of headlights. Because it is so easy to run over them, they are smashed by the hundreds, putting already fragile populations further at risk. They are also in danger when the vernal pools to which they travel are drained or built upon, or when their nearby habitat is destroyed. These special pools dry up in the summer and therefore cannot support populations of fishes, which of course would eat the salamander eggs.

We can help by being alert on rainy spring nights to creatures crossing the road, or by staying home if it is not really necessary to drive on early spring rainy nights.

One of the most active crossing sites in Monterey is on Route 57 in the vicinity of the Lake Buel boat ramp and Camp Half Moon. For each one of the hundreds of salamanders and frogs that make it safely across to their ancient wetlands, one more is crushed underneath the wheels of cars traveling at the usual speed.

In the absence of safe tunnels for the amphibians to travel through, volunteer "bucket brigades" carry migrating salamanders safely across the road. All that is needed are warm clothes, raingear, a flashlight and a vest for safety, and a willingness to be on call for the first warm rainy spring night.

We are looking for people committed to helping salamanders make it safely to their breeding grounds, as they have done for millions of years! To find out more, call Kate Ryan, 528-4355, and leave your name and phone number. If you cannot help, please be aware that these ancient creatures are on the road.

— Sue Protheroe

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Literacy Network Training for Volunteer Tutors

The Southern Berkshire Literacy Network (SBLN), a one-on-one adult literacy program based at the Lee Library on Main Street, is offering a hands-on, four-session training for volunteers wishing to learn how to teach adults basic reading, basic math, GED (high school equivalency exam) preparation, English as a second language (ESOL), and citizenship exam preparation. Given the downturn in the economy, the Literacy Network has an increased need for new tutors.

The workshops will begin Monday, April 1 and end Tuesday, April 9. All sessions are free and will be held at the Simon's Rock campus in the new Fisher Building, classroom 201, from 6 to 9 p.m. Space is limited; those interested should call 413-243-0471 or e-mail kamash @aol.com by March 22 to register.

The primary qualifications for being a tutor are: patience, attendance at training, and a commitment to your student.

The Monday, April 1 training entitled, "What is SBLN & the Adult as Learner," will look at why SBLN was created, how it works and the challenges and rewards of tutoring adult learners. This session will be led by SBLN co-founders, Zoë Dalheim and Peg Smith, and Education Director Karen Shreefter.

In 1978, Dalheim founded and became director of The Learning Connection in Pittsfield, an organization offering information and referral, reading assessment, and tutoring for dyslexic adults. She also has filled the roles of coordinator, researcher, and teacher at Project READ.

Smith is coauthor of numerous resources for adult learners and those who work with them. She has been Reading Assessor and Reading/Writing Teacher at The Learning Connection in Pittsfield since 1978.

On Tuesday, April 2, Dalheim, Smith, and Shreefter will discuss "The Structure of English & Teaching Reading." This session will examine teaching reading and the 80 percent of English that follows rules; it will also provide an overview of learning disabilities.

The third session, on Monday, April 8, will be lead by Jean Leuchtenberger and SBLN Education Assistant Judy Waters and is entitled "Learning Materials Review & Teaching Beginning ESOL". This session will look at SBLN's learning materials, discuss how to help students prepare for the new GED exam and examine techniques for teaching English to non-English-speaking adults.

Leuchtenberger is a longtime SBLN tutor as well as the former coordinator of an ESOL school in Peru. Waters has taught literacy and life skills, reading comprehension, writing development, and grammar to adults outside of Boston for over a decade.

The training concludes Tuesday, April 9 when ESOL specialist Christine Polk leads a workshop entitled "Teaching Intermediate English As a Second Language." Polk is an ESOL teacher at the Southern Berkshire Education Alliance's adult education classes at Searles Middle School in Great Barrington.

According to the Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education, "almost 45 percent of Massachusetts adults lack the educational foundation needed to achieve their family, community, and employment-related goals."

Since it was founded in 1991, SBLN has trained and provided volunteer tutors to provide free tutoring to area adults in reading, math, English as a Second Language, and GED preparation. Tutors and students meet at mutually convenient times and places in South Berkshire.

For more information about the Southern Berkshire Literacy Network or to register by Friday, March 22, call SBLN at (413) 243-0471 or e-mail kamash @aol.com.

Monterey Republicans to Caucus on March 7

The Monterey Republican Party will meet in caucus at the Monterey Firehouse on Thursday, March 7, at 7:30 p.m to nominate candidates for Town Officers to be elected in the annual Town Election on May 4. All qualified voters who are members of the Republican Party are urged to attend.

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CET Offers Recycled Paper

The Center for Ecological Technology (CET) is participating in the Recycled Paper Purchasing Cooperative, a national nonprofit venture designed to promote recycled paper products. Western Massachusetts businesses can now purchase quality recycled office copy paper and computer paper from CET at prices that are comparable or lower than prices for non-recycled paper.

Local businesses and organizations benefit from the collective buying power of businesses, school districts, universities and municipalities from across the country. The high volume of sales allows the paper manufacturer to offer substantial discounts. As more businesses, organizations, municipalities, and schools use recycled paper products, the market for paper collected from curbside and office recycling programs is strengthened. Participating businesses include Texas Instruments; Harvard University; Energy Federation, Inc.; The Pencilman; Katz, Murphy & Greenwald; Berkshire Publishing Group; Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation; and many other local businesses and towns.

"There are many advantages to using recycled paper, but cost has been a real barrier for many businesses. Purchasing paper through CET and the Recycled Paper Purchasing Cooperative is a way to beat the price differential. It's an easy step that businesses can take to protect the environment, strengthen markets for recycled paper, and meet their office needs," said CET's Alan Silverstein.

Getting started is easy. Interested customers call CET, set up an account, and place their first order with CET. The paper is shipped from the manufacturer, Willamette Industries, directly to the customer. After the initial order has been made, customers place subsequent orders with the manufacturer directly. Prices vary based on the quantities ordered. Deliveries are generally available within one to three days. Smaller quantities of paper can be picked up at CET's Elm Street office. Local delivery is also available.

Paper products have been selected because they meet quality standards and have been shown, through testing, to perform as well as if not better than comparable non-recycled products. The 30% minimum post-consumer content copy paper is the most cost-competitive. 100% post-consumer copy paper, manufactured by New Leaf is also available. Post-consumer content is the percentage of recycled content that has been collected through community recycling programs.

"By supporting the full cycle of recycling—recycling paper and asking for paper with recycled content, all businesses can make a significant environmental contribution," said Jodi Royce Cahillane from the Recycled Paper Coalition (RPC). "Paper makes up 40% of the waste sent to landfills. The RPC, a national coalition of businesses, sees that as an unsustainable practice and encourages the business community to purchase paper with a minimum of 30% post-consumer content. We believe if we don't keep up the demand for recycled paper, mills will stop producing it, and our fiber resources will be landfilled."

Purchasing recycled paper also protects forests, which in turn provide habitat for wildlife and protect water quality. Recycled paper uses fewer natural resources, such as electricity, water, and petroleum, than making paper completely from trees.

For more information about available paper products or to order, contact Jamie Cahillane at CET 1-800-238-1221 or e-mail jamiec@cetonline.org.

Monterey Democrats to Caucus on March 12

The Monterey Democratic Party will meet in caucus at the Monterey Firehouse on Tuesday, March 12, at 7:30 p.m to nominate candidates for Town Officers to be elected in the annual Town Election on May 4. All registered Democrats are urged to attend.

Talk by Bill Conley on Gay and Lesbian Issues

The South Berkshire PFLAG Chapter (Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays) invites the public to hear a talk by Bill Conley, who is a Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus lobbyist and is also on the Governor's Commission for Gay and Lesbian Youth.

Bill encourages you to ask him questions. He will give us an update on current legislation regarding GLBT issues, including freedom to marry and an update on Governor's Commission topics such as safe schools. The talk will take place March 14, 7:30 p.m., at Hevreh of South Berkshire, 290 State Road (Rt. 23), Great Barrington. For more information call 528-6952.

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Family Network March News

This is a partial listing of Family Network events and services. Please call 413-528-0721 for more information. All events are held at the Family Center, 940 South Main Street, Great Barrington, unless otherwise stated. Families are requested to register for all events and playgroups. In case of bad weather, please call the Family Center to learn if the event has been cancelled.

The Family Network has relied on Parent to Parent Volunteers to help us give families the extra support they request during the past twenty years. Sometimes a volunteer might help transport a family to important appointments or playgroup. Other times, the volunteer might be someone to listen to an isolated mother. Volunteers sometimes meet families at the Family Center to help them in specific ways with their children. Once trained, we ask volunteers to serve a family for one-two hours a week for a year if possible. If you would like to be a volunteer and would like to know more about the ten hour training, please contact Claudette at the Family Center.

Glynis Oliver

Barbara Tryon and Pam Johnson at work on the Monterey Piecemakers' latest quilt which will be raffled this summer to benefit Gould Farm. The pattern is Attic Windows.

March 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5, Fridays: Parent to Parent Volunteer Training, 9:30–11:30 a.m. Child care provided. Contact Claudette for more information.

March 4, 11, 18, 25. Mondays: Parent Infant playgroup, March 4, Linda Leck, Family Nurse Practitioner, Community Health Center will visit; March 11, Deborah Phillips, Nutritionist, Community Health Center; March 18, Delinda Anderson, First Steps, Early Intervention Director, will discuss early childhood development; February 25, Deborah Brantner Jones, Maternal Child Health Nurse will visit. 12:30–2 p.m.

March 4, 11, 18, 25. Mondays: Parent Workshop, Siblings Without Rivalry led by Terry Ferrara, Parents will receive a free workbook and be able to purchase book. Otis Town Hall, Child care provided. Call Family Center to register. 9:30-11:30 a.m.

March 5. Tuesdays, Music Together for children aged 7 months to 5 years of age led by Tom Hanford, 3 sessions, 9:45 a.m. and 11 a.m.

March 6 and 13, Wednesdays: CPR class led by Marsha Harvey, RNEMT, $20 charge for book and card. $10.00 without book for recertification. 6–9 p.m.

March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10, 17, 24, Wednesday: Kindermusic series led by Karen Kierney, for children aged birth–1½ years. St. George's Church, Lee. Family Network will pay tuition for 12 children. Parents will be asked to purchase educational kit for $30.00. Call Family Center to register. 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

March 9, Saturday: William K. Whiskers, puppet show, 11 a.m.

March 13, Wednesday: Music Together Program led by Tom Hanford, Program is appropriate for children aged 7 months–5 years. This can become a series if enough interest is shown by families. Becket Town Hall, Please call Family Network, 528-0721 to register, 10 a.m.- 10 :45 a.m.

March 16, Saturday: Father-child Field Trip to maple sugar bush, Gould Farm, Monterey, We hope that the maple syrup will be flowing and this field trip will take place. Please call and let us know if you wish to attend so we can contact you if there is a change in plans. 10 a.m.–12 noon.

March 20, Wednesday: Single Parents' Playgroup, for single parents and children aged birth–5 years. Light supper. 5-7 p.m.

March 27, Wednesday: Mother Baby Exercise and Baby Massage led by Vicky Guy, LPTA, 1 p.m.

For the months of March and April, the Great Barrington Family Center playgroups will be organized according to the age of the child. Families with children aged birth to 2 years will attend on Wednesday and families with children aged 2-4 years will attend on Thursday. Families with children in each age group may decide which day would better suit their schedule and needs. This effort is to better serve the many families who wish to attend these playgroups. Please call the Family Center to register and to indicate a problem for your family being able to attend on a specific day.

PEOPLE'S PANTRY: St. Peter's Parish Center, corner of East and Cottage Streets. Open every Thursday, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. People's Pantry serves families who reside in South Berkshire County. Please use the lower entrance off Russell Street. Please do not park in the Center's driveway.

Senator Says

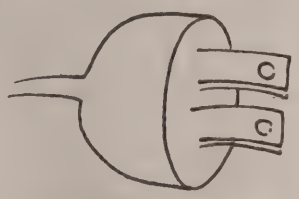
Keeping Watch on St. Lawrence Cement

Many readers may have heard about a proposed coal-burning cement plant that would be located about twenty miles west of the Massachusetts border, in Greenport, New York. Currently, environmental regulators from the State of New York are reviewing permit applications from St. Lawrence Cement to build the facility, which would be one of the largest cement plants in the country. The plant is designed to replace an aging cement manufacturing plant in Catskill.

Since June of 2000, when I was first alerted about plans for the cement plant, I have worked with both community groups and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to ensure that the health and environmental concerns of residents in Massachusetts are voiced loudly and clearly to our counterparts in New York.

In June of 2001, I had the opportunity to testify before New York Department of Environmental Conservation Administrative Law Judge Helene Goldberger at the St. Lawrence Cement legislative hearing in Hudson. As part of my testimony, I stated that Massachusetts deserves a seat at the table during the environmental permitting process. DEP, which also testified at the legislative hearing, petitioned the New York regulators for inclusion in further hearings.

Unfortunately, on December 7, 2001, Judge Goldberger denied DEP's request to fully participate in the administrative law hearings designed to review St. Lawrence Cement's permit application. Recently, DEP appealed this decision that excludes our state's environmental agency from participating in formal hearings regarding the St. Lawrence Cement plant. If the Massachusetts appeal is successful, DEP will take part in the upcoming hearings in New York, with the ability to call witnesses, present evidence, and cross-examine the applicant's witnesses.



On a separate front, environmental experts from DEP and I continue to work with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) to assist in Massachusetts' involvement on a regional level. BRPC has spent considerable resources investigating the plant's impact on western Massachusetts, and has expressed its concerns to the New York regulators overseeing this project.

Likewise, Friends of Hudson, a New York environmental group, has played an active role in assisting our efforts in Massachusetts. A grassroots community effort has also surfaced in the Berkshires and has created even more public awareness about St. Lawrence Cement. Tyringham-based Friends of Clean Air, which includes a diverse membership ranging from farmers and students to business owners and seniors, is focusing on protecting our environment for current and future generations. While I was disappointed with Judge Goldberger's initial ruling that prevents DEP from actively participating in the administrative law hearings, I am pleased that DEP, under the leadership of Commissioner Lauren Liss, and with the support of the Secretary of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Robert Durand, has appealed the ruling.

Additionally, DEP has expressed its concerns to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency about the proposed cement plant and is reserving its right to appeal the permit on the federal level. I appreciate DEP's commitment to western Massachusetts. The agency's efforts to guarantee that the St. Lawrence Cement plant strictly complies with all state and federal laws and to ensure that the plant is as environmentally safe as possible under today's technology have been laudable.

I encourage interested residents to contact my district office (413-442-6810) with any questions you may have regarding the St. Lawrence Cement proposal.

— Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.

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celebrate the fawning eve
who comes so quickly now

dark minds of silence
yet much ado distracts the mouths of many
oh, cease your chilly chatter
seal the missives that chastise cherubs
for childlike delight
whose incantations free the frozen
bark from captive trunks

heed the hush of healing season
she sleeps not
but stirs the light
of winter's whitewashed womb

the love that bears our spring

— Claudia Weldon

DINGLE: West of Ireland Stones

Stones are what God gives us here:
the druid on his tor
the hermit at his beehive hut
laid on them wisdom lore

stones last as long as death

sure, and I'll be knowing now
whatever death is for
'tis to make the things we stood for
stand for more.

— A. O. Howell

The Chief Griever

Why is it, Doc, I am unable to cry at funerals?
Surrounded by earnest weepers — the squires
knuckling their eyes — with their whitest handkerchiefs
the ladies mopping their eyes —
I sit drought-stricken, even a little bored. Watching
the sappiest movies my eyes fill and I reach
for a napkin sodden with popcorn butter. Reading
the stupidest romance when all difficulties
surmounted, misunderstandings aligned, true
love wins through at last, my cheeks are tracked
with brine. But Doc, at obsequies I cannot cry —
the evilest impotence. There is a desert,
I think, in my heart's most inward core —
a sandy country lacking the living though invested
with phantoms aping the living.

There was Jack (I've spoken of him), not forty years
on this earth — his wife whom I truly admire,
the two children — so much already fulfilled, so full
of further promise, so full of lymphoma, the prime jewel
of Jennie's heart — and I could not weep. Ah
what a funeral! They filled all the pews then stood,
those that could not sit. Before and afterwards they came to me,
the men with strong masculine hugs, the women
with their teary kisses, and I indifferent
among all that moisture, parching in heart's gray desert.
Why weep for Jack? I asked his oldest friend. His suffering's
finished. He looked at me (imputing You fool!*). It's not for him,*
it's for me.

So, Doc. Ineluctable logic? Have I nothing to lose? In truth
loving no one, not kin nor friend, grieving for none? I do grieve
for me, most miserable, solitariest wanderer
of the teeming world.

— Jim Michelman

Atlas

She travels balanced
on the curved edge of
the world,
a son swaddled against her kidneys in
his hammock of rags, while
behind them the arrogant camel allows
himself to be led
over the mountain, dipping
one foot and then the other
into the tepid
earth, uncommitted to
their destination.

Men stride on ahead, sure-footed,
familiar with asphalt, with
paper money and stalls
in towns where dark stories
are whispered.

Tonight they camp
in a cleft of rock. Amethysts
bloom like wildflowers
in the caves. Young boys
carry torches and iron
rods to harvest them. Tomorrow,
while their sheep
forage along the roadside,
nibbling grasses broken by
the axles of passing trucks, they
will trade the purple
stones for cigarettes and coins.

The flat sun drops into its
slot behind the peaks. Soon stars
hang down like bangles from the
velvet bowl. She kindles a fire with dry twigs,
skewers
meat for the men. Later they will spread
their rugs about the fire, some alert, on
watch while
others sleep. Her swollen
nipple teases the infant's cheek. She
is emptied, she is
filled again. They start
at dawn, silhouettes against
the yellow hills, too
far away to smell
the distant sea.

She will tie the child about her
body, hoist her skirts and mount
the road, toes flexed, gripping
the dirt, prepared to hang
on, in case the earth
should shift.

— Harriet Harvey

Released

His young poor face behind the chicken wired glass,
longing to be me, who was getting out.
All his bravado from his mouth earlier now
revealed in his desperate eyes as sad child's play.
My processing completed, I looked over my shoulder
at this fatherless fate locked kid with nothing
but his time ahead of him and his nerve to stave off
the real offenders who waited for him in the stairwells.
My middle-class ticket punched, I felt his stare
grind into the back of my neck, my gratuitous glance
back at him sulphur as the guard opened my door.

— Peter Shepley

From the Meetinghouse . . .

We are each as tall as we are wide, with arms spread, fingertip to fingertip. This is how I first knew that Mark had once been very tall. His wingspan was great.

Ten years before I knew him, when he was fifteen years old, he had broken his neck swimming one day in Lake Michigan at the public beach near his home. Standing up to his middle in the lake, he simply dove beneath the surface, hands first, then head, and when he hit the bottom, he did so at just the right angle to snap his spinal cord above his shoulders.

The result was quadriplegia, the paralysis of all four of his limbs, total in his legs, partial in his arms and hands, so that he could write using a pen, type at a computer, and maneuver a manually controlled wheelchair. Neither of us in possession of a car, both of us poor graduate students studying creative writing, when we would go into town together from campus I would walk, one foot in front of the other, while he would push, bare hands on the top of each wheel, pushing down, pushing down. His hands were as calloused as most feet are. His feet were pillows of swollen flesh that he had to elevate at least once a day.

For longer journeys, across town, I would ride my bike while he would hold on to the stem of my bike seat, trailing behind as if on a buggy. We called this the bike express, and we had to be careful because Mark was top heavy. He tipped over easily. His center of gravity, as for everyone, was where his strength was, but instead of being in his thighs and hips, it was in his chest and shoulders. His chair only grounded him slightly. It was made of hollow aluminum pipes to be lightweight, easily pushed.

Once we borrowed a car for a trip we'd planned to the bike shop and then to Sam's Club, located on the outskirts of town. Mark needed his chair tuned up, and while we waited we were each going to bulk up on dry and canned goods. At Sam's Club there are always wheelchairs for patrons to borrow. Mark would use one, we had decided, while his chair was in the shop, though he dreaded it. Using a strange chair for a quad is like a biped having to wear shoes that don't fit and are ugly, all wrong.

On the way there, at a traffic light, we came to a stop behind a line of cars. And Mark turned to me from the passenger seat to say, "Not here."

I looked to notice that we were idling on the train tracks that ran through town.

"Not here. Don't stop here. Back up," he said. It was the first time I'd seen him afraid instead of angry regarding his injury. "This isn't going to happen to me again."

The longest journey we ever took together was from Carbondale to Chicago, on the train, a six-hour ride. Sitting in a booth of two-bench seats facing one another, we leaned against the cool window and watched as Illinois passed from South to North before our eyes, hills to farms to suburban developments. Somewhere in the midst of the farms, Mark said to me, "I want to stand for you."

He shimmied away from the window, toward the aisle, across the bench seat that he had to himself in the accessible car that we had to ourselves. His wheelchair was beside our booth in a space designated for chairs. Its brakes were on and it twitched with the movement of the train, as if it were alive, just asleep.

"I didn't know you could," I said.

"I can here," he said.

He had come to rest at the very end of the seat. Then he reached up with both hands, wrapping them around the silver aluminum bar that ran the length of the train car. He pulled himself up. His body unfolded beneath him. Then he let go with one hand, and reached across the aisle, grasping the aluminum bar on the other side of the aisle, running parallel to the first the length of the train car. He shimmied himself into the aisle and stood with his feet wobbly beneath him, his arms stretched out like wings.

Then I stood up as well, moved to stand beside him, a full five or six inches shorter.

I am almost six feet tall, so it is rare for me to stand beside someone taller than I am, especially that much taller. And for that moment when I did, it nearly brought me to my knees.

"This is how I'm supposed to be," Mark said.

Then he asked for my help in sitting back down, putting his hands on my shoulders, while I wrapped my arms around his torso. "Not too tight," he said. "I break easily." And then we were back in our seats, leaning our flushed faces against the cool window.

At the end of this month we will celebrate Easter at the church, the morning of Christ's resurrection following his crucifixion. It is a miracle, according to Christians, foretold in many biblical stories, and promised to all life eventually, a time when the creation will return from brokenness to how we are each on our own and all together supposed to be. It is a miracle that is as well foretold in much that we witness throughout our lives, those moments when we see and understand how we're supposed to be and know in faith that we will be that way again.

— Elizabeth Goodman

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Spring Tapping in the Woods

At this time of year, various creatures are out in the woods, banging on the trees. Even to a visitor from some other planet or culture it must be apparent that this is a rite of spring: we are busting loose after a winter's confinement, or we have gone berserk as our hormones jump in response to the longer days.

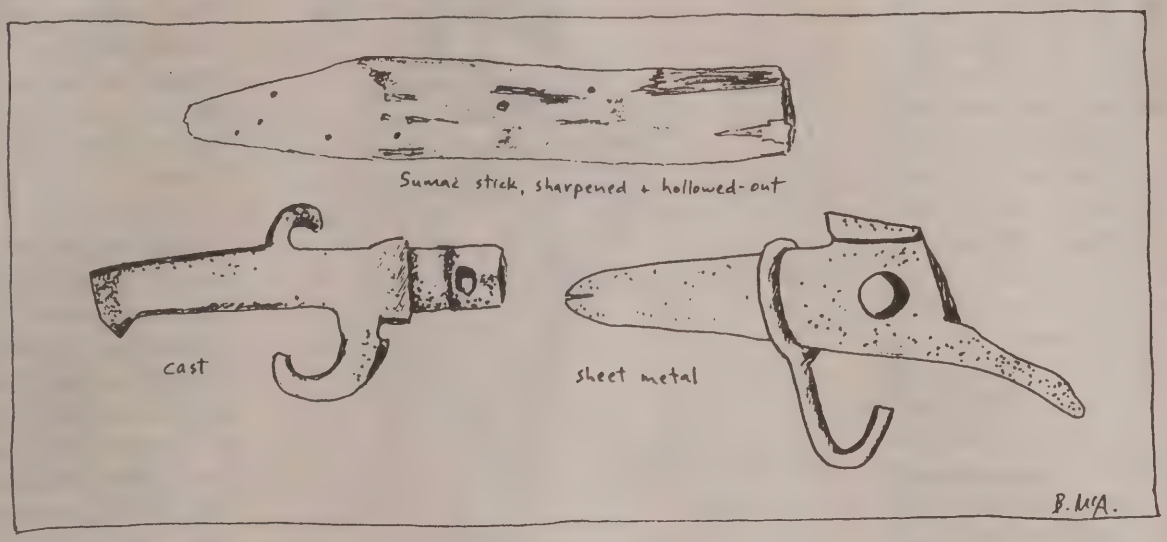
As a tapper for the past 25 years, I think I understand my particular urges well enough to say that my banging on the trees in the spring must be the result of both of these things—the confinement and the chemical changes. It is also, for me, a way to get sugar out of the maples. We drill a hole, tap in a spile, and watch the clear sweet sap well out to form that first, heavy, sparkling drop. It falls with a deep "bong" into the dry metal bucket. We hang twenty more in the same famous sugar bush (our neighbor's yard) and soon the buckets are all binging and bonging like a performance of classical Javanese music. We could close our eyes and be transported to a tropical evening in the *pandopo* (performance space), on the other side of the world—almost.

Unlike the Javanese music, which is at times insistent, at times dreamy, but always organized, this gamelan of the sugar bush is completely random. This is more like John Cage. The temperature dips a bit and we get long periods of silence from the buckets (sometimes days). These silences may be broken, to great artistic effect, by the solo performance of our feathered counterparts: the woodpeckers.

There are plenty of music lovers whose world of appreciation has never expanded to include Javanese court music, much less John Cage. By the same token, there are critics in the woods who delight to hear the chickadee's spring song, and the blackbird's bright upward burble in the cattails, but on whom the percussive contributions are simply lost, misunderstood. Many times I've heard from observers in my neck of the woods that "some woodpecker" was "stupidly" banging away on a road sign or a metal gutter pipe. These listeners not only found the concert strident and incomprehensible, they also judged it to be a malfunction of Nature, some weirdness on the part of a "foolish bird."

I don't say individual weirdness is nonexistent in nature, or for some reason limited to humans. I just say it always pays to give the artist the benefit of the doubt, whether he be avian, Javanese, or avant-garde. There might be something going on here.

In the case of the sign bangers, it's those hormones I mentioned. The bird



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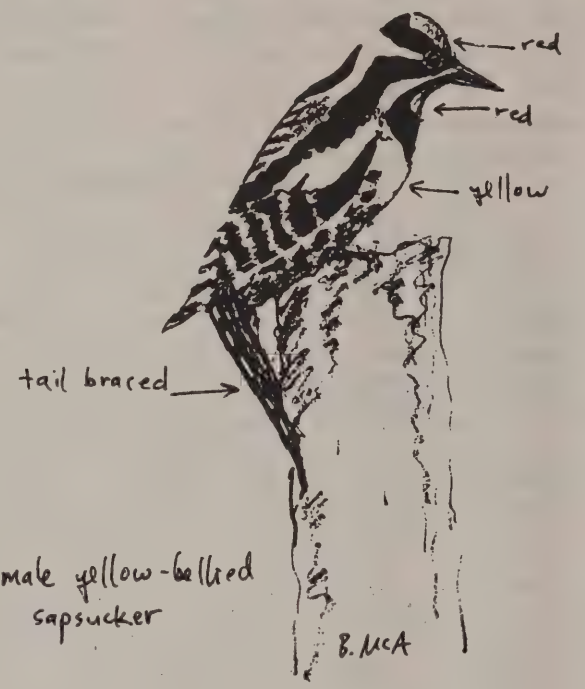
drummers are not always in search of the next snack (the way I am, with my spiles and hammer). For our sapsuckers and woodpeckers, the dead branch or resonant metal sign is an instrument, and the tattoo they beat has a specific message.

If you pay attention, you'll find that the fast, evenly timed solo comes from the hairy woodpecker, staking out his territory. The fast, even beat which starts out loud but fades abruptly at the end is our big king of the woods, the pileated woodpecker. When he is digging carpenter ants out of a dying beech tree he goes, "Sock . . . sock . . . sock . . . sock . . . (rip) . . . sock . . . sock . . . (rip)." When he is not foraging for breakfast, when he's broadcasting his territorial assertion, he looks for a strong, loud instrument. He does not need it to be full of ants.

Around our place, the sign bangers are yellow-bellied sapsuckers. Their music-with-a-message goes like this: "Bang . . . bang . . . bang . . . bang . . . bang . . . bang . . . bang." It carries the same volume throughout with a nice recapitulation of the overture worked into a ritardando at the end. "Mine . . . this . . . is . . . mine . . . all . . . mine . . . mine . . . mine!"

Spring is a grand time to be out whacking the trees. I recommend it to anyone who has not tried it—but watch out. Understand what is going on. You might get a bucket of sap, find yourself in a musical territorial battle with some guy full of hormones, or you might attract the love of your life. At the very least, you could possibly find some ants.



— Bonner J. McAllester

Walking with Friends

It may not yet be official, but it is unmistakable; spring is in the air. For a certain cohort of Monterey homeowners, most of us old enough to look back on our respective mid-life crises with bemused chuckles, this is both good news and bad. The good news is that it will soon be time to load up the cars and SUV's with shorts, sandals and cases of toilet paper, and retrench to beautiful Lake Garfield for the whole, glorious summer! The bad news is that our beloved General Store is closed!

What will life be like without it? So much of the *gestalt* of Monterey is tied to that little store: its architecture and history, which predate us all; the old porch, where local workmen and farmers share morning coffee, companionship, and opinions on topics that can range all the way from art to Zen; and, for years, for me and my friends, the big round table near the deli counter, midpoint of our daily five-mile hike, where we reward and fortify ourselves with muffins and coffee that taste like no other muffins and coffee in the world. That splintered green door surely cannot stay closed forever! We walking women, along with the rest of Monterey, are bereft.

Anyone who frequents Hupi and Tyringham Roads on early summer mornings has seen us; a small group of women of a certain age, walking fast and purposefully, ostensibly courting aerobic fitness. Yes, I know that regular exercise is,

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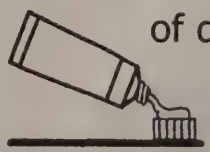

528-6520
Route 23 Monterey

well, *good* for me, but the real benefit of these daily hikes is the conversation. These are some of the things we talk about:

We talk about politics. We are a radical group. Perhaps women of our age can afford to be because we have already achieved those benchmarks that are the goals of the anxious young: husbands, children, homes, careers. Or perhaps we are more radical because we have the energy that comes with the end of exhausting motherhood, the force of knowing who we are, and the resilience to be able to grin at our familiar old flaws and foibles.

We agree that we are a lucky generation of women. We knew from childhood that we would move up in the world, go to college, expand our horizons beyond the cramped city apartments our parents had to settle for during the Great Depression and the war years that followed. Our generation slipped in just under the wire. We had the career opportunities denied to our mothers and the relaxed assurance of material betterment that may elude many of our daughters, who just might have to cope with a revolution of declining expectations in our faltering, post-dot-com economy.

We talk about illness and death—losses, so *many* losses, the inevitable consequence of not dying young ourselves. We have lost siblings and friends. Some of us have survived surgeries and grave illnesses. There are those of us who are widows, and we share the task of redefining ourselves and restructuring our lives. Some of us have aged parents or relatives, and so our repertoire includes accounts of dependency and decline, and much black humor about our own futures.

We talk about ceremonies that mark the milestones of every life—weddings, birthdays, christenings, bar mitzvahs, graduations—and about holidays, secular and religious. We exchange recipes, decorating and gardening advice, movie and book reviews, and restaurant recommendations. We tell each other jokes, none of which can be reprinted here. And, of course, we talk about relationships and sex. A lot.

We all agree we can afford to be sillier, more lighthearted and more self-centered than we were twenty or thirty years ago. To you long-suffering, passing drivers who are kind enough to slow down and give us a wide berth in the mornings, we must appear a gleefully undignified pack as we go trotting down the road in our ragtag T-shirts and ratty running shoes.

Here are some things we share and *never* talk about: the extraordinary peacefulness and safety we feel in each other's presence; the acceptance, without judgment, of our individual eccentricities; the knowledge that we are bonded together in a very special way, although all of us lead busy and complicated lives apart from each other.

I know in my head that no matter how many miles we walk every day, the equation remains immutable: gravity + time = everything below our scalps going south. Yet, on those magical, clear mornings, when the mists rise off Lake Garfield, and we turn to each other to exclaim about its beauty, all I can see are the faces of these women, who have become my dear, dear friends, and the incredible beauty that radiates from each of them.

— Harriet Harvey

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As Winters Go

As far as winters go, this one has not been the great white bear of last year, which lumbered for almost three months across the astrological heavens and for days on end left its tracks in the snowdrifts across the landscape of the Berkshires. But this winter is not over quite yet.

On February 15, a date directed by the Conservation Commission of Massachusetts, the Highway Department raised the water gate at the Brewer Pond Dam on Beartown Mountain Road, reversing the weed control drawdown process begun last fall, almost five weeks before the first day of spring.

If this continues to be the driest winter in recent years, it may take all of that time for both Lake Garfield and Brewer Pond, which share a common water level, to fill to the brim. But this winter has already left its own mark, a polarizing effect of freezing and thawing, first fire then ice; while our lawns stayed green, our walks were hazardous, and skaters and fishermen fell into freezing waters, a grizzly scene of a meteorological bear of a different species.

Along the edges of the wetlands along Diane's Trail, flocks of robins were present frequently, and if a groundhog ventured out of its burrow looking for its shadow at midwinter, it might have seen flocks of other migratory birds, such as starlings and cowbirds, that simply could not be here, unless they did not get the word. People are talking about global warming and wondering if something has gone wrong, perhaps a planet slightly off course in its orbit. Then, quite by accident, I was given a historical account of a winter in Monterey in 1776 that was very similar.

My friend and Monterey resident Jules Dahlman, the man who used to be seen walking his Airedale around town, gave me photocopies from one of his favorite books, *Henry Knox, George Washington's General.* This account of bringing a cannon train through this part of the world documents in some detail what the weather was like, perhaps the earliest account on record. Although there was probably more snow, the progress was repeatedly hampered and delayed by freezing and thawing. Along the shore of the Hudson River somewhere near Albany, while the train was crossing to this side from Fort Ticonderoga, the ice wore thin and a cannon went through into shallow water, causing a full day's delay to haul it out.

After a few miles of lumbering through heavy snowdrifts, the men would find the roads had turned to muddy ruts, and in several situations oxen were unhitched and replaced by teams of draft horses. When they got to Westfield, one hill in particular was so treacherous that the teamsters refused to go down, seeing it as too dangerous, and it took some

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brilliant persuasion, as Henry Knox was capable of, to get them to go on. However, Jules, who has made a study of this extraordinary logistical accomplishment by a most capable planner and leader, believes that General Knox was probably not often riding with his troops, at the head of the column, but was more likely to be found dining in comfort as a guest in a manor house along the way. However, the proof is in the pudding, and the timely, if delayed, arrival of the train in Boston forced the British evacuation, and all of New England fell to the colonists before the first day of spring.

If we all are grateful this year to greet the rising sun of the Vernal Equinox, still before the day is over, it may cloud over one more time, with a ring of clouds around the sun making what is called a sun dog, indicating that there is a lingering snowstorm still over the horizon. Little wonder that Native Americans, who were much more tuned into winter than we are, were known to fire flaming arrows into the darkness of a predawn sky, perhaps the first fireworks display on record, to greet the coming of planting season, confirming their belief in the reincarnation of all forms of life on Earth. As winters go, this is a time when perhaps we feel, in our own way, closest to our maker in heaven.

— George Emmons

Sandisfield Arts Center News and Events

Save these dates! On Saturday evening, April 27, SARC will present a "Something for Everyone Auction" to raise funds to match our $95,000 grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Hopefully it will be as successful as last year's event and even more fun with additions such as a pre-auction dinner and some light entertainment as well as a silent auction. If you would like to donate an item or help with the event, please call Liana at 258-4904.

On Sunday afternoon, May 5, there will be a groundbreaking ceremony at the Arts Center, followed by a Family Fun day that will feature a fair, penny auction, balloon animal maker, and youth talent exhibitions throughout the day. Any group may rent a table for $10 to sell their wares. The event begins at 11:30 a.m. and is free to the public.

The summer performing arts series will begin later this year due to the foundation repair project scheduled to take place this spring.

We will begin with the Crofut Arts Fund benefit concert in late July and hope to have the incomparable Chris Brubeck and friends back. On August 24, a stunning a capella sextet from New York called Equal Voices will win you over with their skills as artists and entertainers. In September, renowned Broadway music director Jack Lee will return with a program of American Operetta as you've never heard it before.

On October 26 and October 27, George Preston and Ben Luxon will star in the spine-tingling ghost play, "The Woman in Black."

On November 16 "Klezamir" will make the Klezmer tradition come alive with their unique sound and fresh approach.

There will be several "Café" events to look forward to as well. Additionally, we'd like to host another art show and poetry reading. If you would like to perform at the Arts Center on the downstairs level in an informal setting, please send a letter describing your proposal to: Sandisfield Arts Center, PO Box 31, Sandisfield, MA 01255. Please note that there may be funding available for artists or performers and that most Café events are offered free to the public or at low cost.

We are in the final stages of Master Planning for the complete restoration of the Arts Center Building and creating construction documents for the foundation repair and lower level improvements taking place this spring. Bid documents should be ready by the end of March. If you are a general contractor, plumber, electrician, carpenter, or mason who would like to bid on this job, or if you would like to donate materials or services, please contact architects Harry Pisila or Chuck Chiecko at (413) 443-8227.

Special thanks go to Sue Salame for again coordinating the youth and family programs for the year. She has had much success in getting funding for these programs. We are very grateful to the Sandisfield Cultural Council for their support, to Tina DeManbey for her work with the Young Actor's Club, and to Susie Crofut and the Bill Crofut Arts Fund for Children committee for continuing to provide great opportunities for Sandisfield youth.

— Liana Toscanini

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The Thread of the Story

First Quilt, Latest Quilt

MaryKate Jordan

The Berkshire Quilt Guild, which meets once a month in Great Barrington, includes a number of Monterey quilters. The theme for our February meeting was "First Quilt, Latest Quilt," and some members shared examples of their early and current quilting projects. Marsha Doelman, Pam Johnson, Gige O'Connell, Sally Pullen, Barbara Tryon, and I were there. I've decided to share my "first and latest" here in the *Monterey News*.

Sometime around 1981, I called my then-sister-in-law and said blithely, "Let's make a quilt for Mom!" She agreed and neither of us thought to ask any questions. Pioneer women did it, after all. How hard could it be?

We hatched a plan, chose blue as the color, then got to work, Barb in California and I in Manhattan. We'd each find a bunch of cotton fabric, make some blocks. Eighteen-inch squares seemed reasonable. That way there wouldn't be too many of the pesky things to stitch together. She'd mail me hers, I'd sew them into rows with mine, and then sew all into a huge square, find a backing, sandwich a piece of flannel or something in between and, hey, we'd have a quilt, right?

Well, sort of. The final product startled both of us. It never occurred to her that the blocks wouldn't all be pieced in traditional patterns. It never occurred to me that they wouldn't all be either strip-pieced, or appliquéd.

That project was a primary learning experience. Bed quilts are rectangular, not square, I discovered, so I created a three-block horizontal panel (near the pillows in the photo) to add length. And, once the layers are sandwiched together, some kind of stitching is required to keep the sandwich in place. All I knew how to do at the time was to tie it with strategically placed bits of six-stranded embroidery thread, so our final result was, like "Annie's quilt" in my February column, a comforter.

I've learned a lot about quilting since then, not the least from my involvement in the Monterey Piecemakers, and with the quilt guild. My current quilt's a sampler of twelve historically documented pieced-block patterns, with appliqué work in the borders. I call it "The Zodiac in the Attic." As the name suggests, the quilt also has a nontraditional, astrological, twist.

But that's another story. Happily, my mom loves her "quilt" and still feels a warm glow whenever she curls up under it to go to sleep. It seems that Barb and I got the most important part right, after all.

— MaryKate Jordan

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Firemen on a Winter Evening

To the Editor:

Tarsi and I had an appointment in downtown Boston the afternoon of February 13. On our drive east, we had commented that it was a good day for such a trip. The sky was as blue as can be and the sun shone brightly. Usually we would resent having to make the trip on such a nice day, although we would be grateful that there was no snow or ice event. We would be thinking of all the things at home we would rather be doing. The thing that made this day such a good traveling day was the actual temperature outside; it was freezing cold and the brisk northwest wind made us happy we were staying warm in the car.

We left Boston during rush hour with little drama; we had decided to leave the car at the Riverside commuter station and not have to deal with the traffic. But none the less, it had been a long day; Tarsi had started with an 8:00 a.m. exam and I had had an 8:15 meeting in Pittsfield. We were tired when we got off the Mass Pike that night and decided to have dinner in Lee and then head home. So, it was getting on toward 9:00 p.m. when we arrived back in Monterey. It was now colder and the wind was still blowing. As we rounded the corner at the top of the hill by Lake Garfield, we noticed lights set up on the banks of Brewer Pond.

"What on earth is going on?" Tarsi wondered.

Then we noticed the fire truck by the side of the road and could just make out a number of human figures along the edge of the water. I remembered it was Wednesday night . . . the firemen's night to practice.

"Why are they out there on such a cold night? Why didn't they stay inside and do something else?" Two more logical questions.

I offered up my best guess. You have to practice in adverse conditions. Fires don't usually happen on nice warm, sunny days. You have to learn how to deal with water under freezing conditions. You have to learn how and where to get water out of the supply source when that source might have ice on it. You have to figure out how you are going to see what you are doing at night, practice getting those lights out of the truck and set up quickly, not to mention deciding where on the truck you might like to store them for easy access. We decided that I could go on and on (Tarsi says I often go on and on) imagining various considerations that we don't usually think about, but what settled in on us both, in a way that was almost too big to take in, was the huge amount of dedication it takes to be a volunteer fireman—and I mean HUGE! I have great admiration for every one of them.

— Susan Sellew

Who Are the Heros?

To the Editor:

Thanks to the *Monterey News* for allowing me and others to express our views about the tragic events of September 11th. The collective views of Americans will help to shape our response to this attack. I hope that any response will validate and not repudiate both our history and the sacrifices of Americans in the past. In that hope, I must take issue with some of the views expressed by Caroline Besse Webster in your January 2002 issue which responded to my letter of December 2001.

Many young and innocent Americans have, throughout our history, given their lives to protect our freedoms. Yet, in Ms. Webster's view, the protection of these freedoms is apparently not worthy of "the sacrifice of real heroes." "Real heroes save lives," she says. By her arbitrary definition, she would exclude the fallen soldiers of all wars from the ranks of heroes.

Ms. Webster says that my anger is "misplaced." Since she did not say where my anger should be placed, I can only guess that she means it should be directed at ourselves as the cause of the 9/11 atrocity and not at the people who directed and applauded it.

I ask Ms. Webster to remember the boys who crawled up the beaches of Normandy, cut down by the withering guns of the enemy. Was their anger "misplaced"? Since she called Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman merely "the models of older Americans" who only "seemed right at the time" does she think the same about the soldiers who died on D-Day? She claims to condemn what she calls the "American way of death." Does that mean that it is okay not to kill our enemies but perfectly fine for our enemies to kill us?

The aim of terrorism is fear—terrorism proceeds when we allow fear to determine our actions and opinions. Ms. Webster fears "our dangerous world." However, she cannot conquer her fear by repudiating all of our most cherished values and she cannot expect the rest of us to either.

Ms. Webster wants to believe that wolves and sheep will someday be together and perhaps they will, someday. But for the present she seems confused as to which is which.

— June Grancio
Monterey and NYC

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Remembering Alan D. Randolph

Alan Dennis Randolph, 69, of Hupi Road, formerly of East Hanover and West Orange, N.J., died January 31 at Laurel Lake Center in Lee.

Born in Hampstead, England, on April 27, 1932, son of Ethel Burnstein Randolph and the late David Randolph, he moved to New Jersey at the age of 9 and graduated from Orange High School there. He also attended the former Upsala College in East Orange, N.H., until he was drafted into the Army during the Korean War. In 1961, he returned to Essex County, N.J., where he established A and E Distributors. He retired in 1999 and moved to Massachusetts.

Besides his mother, he leaves his wife, Myrna; a son, Robert Randolph of Mendham, N.J.; a daughter, Jackie Katz of New Jersey; a sister, Betty Lee Baron of New Jersey; and eight grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to Fairview Hospital or to Jespy House of South Orange, N.J., in care of Finnerty and Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main St., Gt. Barrington, MA 01230.

Personal Notes

Births we celebrate this month belong to **Arnold Garber, Graham Quisenberry** and **Jeremy Vallianos** on the 1st, **Hunter Andrus** on the 3rd, **Travis Raab** on the 5th, **Janet Garber** on the 7th, **Anne Marie O'Connor** on the 8th, **Bob Gauthier** on the 10th, **Valerie Costas** and **Bonner McAllester** on the 13th, **Barbara Shea** on the 14th, **Cameron Carnese** on the 15th, **Annabel Edelman** on St. Patrick's Day, the 17th, **Bill Thieriot** on the 19th, **Charles Mielke** and **Hadley Mielke** on the 20th, **Carol Edelman** on the 23rd, **Alf Pedersen** and **Ellen Pedersen** on the 27th, **Barbara Gauthier, Diana Lazzarini** and **Will Marsh** on the 31st.

Anniversary greetings to **Jerry and Giuliana Raab** on the 9th. Belated Happy 50th Anniversary to **John and Lois Ryder.**

Congratulations to **Dr. John and Cynthia Hendrix Makuc** on the birth on February 25th of a daughter, **Madeleine Rose,** who joins her happy brother, **Jacob Andrew.**

— Deborah Mielke

ॐ

Doggie Play Group Forming

Every Thursday, beginning April 18th, all friendly dogs (and their owners of course) are invited to convene at my Gazebo on Hupi Road for a "supervised play group" followed by a sunset walk down to Lake Garfield and around. Arrival time is 5–5:30 p.m., and walk will start soon afterwards. If interested please call Eileen Lawlor, 528-7916 for all the particulars!

Rabies Clinic on March 16

A clinic will be held to give rabies shots to dogs and cats on Saturday, March 16, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. at the Monterey Firehouse. Dog licenses will also be available. Pet owners are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.

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Calendar

Monday, March 4: All submissions for warrant articles for May annual Town Meeting due to Select Board at Town Offices by 9 a.m.

Thursday, March 7: Monterey Republican Party caucus, 7:30 p.m., Monterey Firehouse.

Friday, March 8: Special Town Meeting, 7 p.m., Monterey Firehouse. See p. 1.

Monday, March 11: Conservation Commission public hearing on Scenic Mountain Act, 7 p.m., Town Offices (not the Firehouse as announced in the Conservation Commission notice). See p. 1.

Tuesday, March 12: Monterey Democratic Party caucus, 7:30 p.m., Monterey Firehouse.

Wednesday, March 13: Community potluck dinner, 6 p.m., Meetinghouse basement. Everyone invited, please come. After dinner Monterey poets and writers will read from their work. See p. 5.

Thursday, March 14:

Free blood pressure clinic, 2:30–3:30 p.m., Town Hall, administered by Visiting Nurses Assoc.

Talk by Bill Conley and discussion on gay and lesbian issues, 7:30 p.m., Hevreh of South Berkshire, 270 State Road, Great Barrington. Sponsored by South Berkshire PFLAG chapter. All welcome. Information 528-6952.

Friday, March 15: Monterey Food Co-op order distribution and pickup, 11 a.m.–6 p.m., Meetinghouse basement.

Saturday, March 16: St. Patrick's Day dinner. Corned beef and cabbage, potatoes, carrots, bread and dessert. 5-7 pm at Fire Station 2, Rt. 57, Sandisfield. To benefit the New Boston Congregational Church. Tickets at the door. Take-outs available.

Wednesday, March 20: First day of Spring.

Saturday, March 23: Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m., Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield, Mass. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Paul Rosenberg. All dances are taught, beginners and children are welcome. Refreshments at intermission. Adults $6, children $3. Information (413) 528-9385.

Thursday, March 28: Full Moon.

Sunday, March 31: Easter Egg hunt on the Library Lawn sponsored by the coffee club, 2–4 p.m. See page 4.

Contributors

We thank the following people for their recent contributions.

William & Joyce Pasco

The Observer

January 26–February 25

High temp. (2/22)	58°
Low temp. (2/5, 14)	7°
Avg. high temp.	40.4°
Avg. low temp.	20.6°
Avg. temp.	30.5°
Total precipitation (rain and melted snow)	2.09"
Snowfall	5.0"

Precipitation occurred on 15 days.

The average temperature for the same period last year was 23.7° and the snowfall was 29.5".

How to Get a Burn Permit

Burn permits are available during burn season by calling Maynard Forbes at the town garage, 528-1734.

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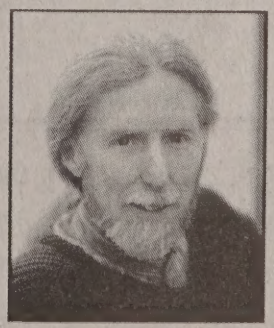

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Contributions from local artists this month: Maureen Banner, pp. 17, 22; George Emmons, p. 18; Bonner McAllester, pp. 15, 16; Glynis Oliver, p. 11.

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